

18 July? 1913?

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday

My Billy.

I haven't yet heard whether Noel is
going to you but no doubt you have heard
by now as I know she was back
yesterday morning. She is coming here
this evening to discuss plans for the
camp. If I shall hear then. I don't
think however that I shall come
anyhow because I have been
rather tired the last few days.
I went to see Craig this morning,
not particularly on account of that
but I had meant to see him
anyhow before I went away & he
said I was all right but said better
keep quiet for a few days as
quite to recover. So I think I shall
just stay at home as I don't want

to run any risk of getting even a little
bad again & I find going away for
Sundays. rather hard work. I especially
want to work next week so I
am going to be on the safe side.
Clive is going to be in today & to
Hilms for Sunday. so I shall be
very solitary & quiet here. I shall
perhaps see you on Monday or anywhere
one day before we go away on Friday.
That will only be for the week end?
& I shall be in London again the
week after. so in any case I shall
probably see you soon.

I am sending this off to catch
the country post you V+3.

17 Aug 1913

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

46, Gordon Square,

Bloomsbury.

Sunday.

My Billy.

I have used great restraint in not writing to you before. Though your husband may have told you of the harrowing dreams I have had about you. But perhaps a letter will be allowed now. At any rate I can wait pushing it. It seems a great many years since I saw you & I can't remember what was going on here when you collapsed. But I suppose it was just the far end of the season & is rather dull. You poor little beast. You must have had a devilish time. Well. We can only hope that compensation for nerves comes in somewhere. Anyway do be careful now & get quite well. Follow my example & take more care as you get better instead of less. It's the only road to complete cure. I have just come back from the most amazing fresh air cure I have ever had in my life & my colour is marvellous. I look exactly like one of those models of the indoor type with a straight line drawn

where I have been exposed to the sun - It was
great fun in the camp - The only person
who was a complete fish out of water there
was Molly - She came at the beginning for 2
days & when she came she had a sore
throat & cold. Then she got feverish & we
didn't know what to do with her. I had
a bedroom in the farm with a large feather
bed which I offered to share with her. Of
course neither of us slept a wink. & in the
middle of the small hours I woke up a dose
& saw her snoring round the room like
a frightened rabbit. Her affair had come on
early & of course she couldn't find anything.
Luckily I now always go about provided
for that event. so I jumped up & thrust
me under her nose to her great surprise.
Then she was taken short - & there was
nothing but a hole in the garden to go to.
So she had to go off to that in her
night gown - The result of course was
that she was much worse the next
day & had a temperature. & at last we
had to bundle her back to London. The
rest of the young women - all the Olvies
were evidently in rude health & spirits.
They are very young & crude but also very
nice. There is no doubt I think, but that
Noel is much the most interesting of them
in fact I think she is rather a remarkable

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character. but I don't know if I shall ever fall in love with Adrian. They were all very friendly & easy. & I found it possible to adopt a pleasant & understanding attitude towards them. In fact I got the reputation of "running on" without ceasing all day & every day. & I don't think I ever had talked so much before in my life. I lectured them on life & morals & I only hope it did them good. but the young are very crude & cruel about they. It will take years before they really reach to our point of mature wisdom. & of course they haven't had any of the experience we had had at their age. Well it is interesting to me what the new generation is like. As a matter of fact Marjorie is 27. so she's not such a chicken as all that! but Noel is only 20.

I seem to be running on in paper as much as I do in conversation. so perhaps I had better stop. I am now working at the O. painting a panel for the Ideal Room we are to exhibit at Olympia.

in the autumn. It is rather nice here
with everyone away. I have finished
painting the nursery which I believe is
a most beautiful portrait of Indian &
African animal life. The children
are at school & seem to be very happy
& Clive is in Scotland & that's all
my family news.

Don't forget to write Billy but
tell your husband if you want me
to write again. Do be good & sensible
or I shall come & scold you

Yours
V

TELEPHONE 8247 CITY.

Ashenham.

46, Gordon Square,

Bloomsbury

(wed)

Aug 27.

My Billy.

Here we are established in great peace & comfort. It is divine weather & everything is looking lovely. The children are in rampaging health & spirits. I am alone with them here now but Clive comes this evening. It is an enormous improvement to have carried the terrace right up to the end & makes a great difference to the front of the house. I have been hard at work rooting up as many nettles as possible but they are a terrible weed. I haven't yet tackled the Funnell question but will do so. We found stores to go on with & eggs. so I don't think she can have done much poisoning after you left.

My Billy I hope you haven't forgotten all my words - wisdom & are being good & eating & resting. You know it

is very easy to be mistaken about one's own
health, but we don't think other people
are ill when they're not. at least sensible
people like Leonard & I don't. nor does
Craig. We know that you are ill
& that the only way to get well is to
get rest & food for your nerves which
are tired out. So do be good & get
better as you certainly will as soon as
you let yourself. I have been thinking
if you ever since I left you & I do
wish I could help to get you right.
But all your miseries will go soon if you
only rest all you can & eat properly.
I hope you're having nice weather. I
never saw this country look so perfect.
I am sitting on the terrace now
Yours V.B.

that we are right until you can feel it for yourself
Don't bother to write but tell L. to send me a line.
Yours B.

65

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Aug 28.

1913

My Billy.

This letter is going to be a lecture. For Leonard says you think you are being made to eat unnecessarily. You may think it absurd of me to think I know anything about it at this distance. But I don't think it is. For you know I have had plenty of experience of you in the past & when I saw you in London I could tell quite well what state you were in. It was perfectly clear to me that you were in the same sort of badly nourished state that you were in that first time at Welwyn - not nearly so bad as that for of course you aren't quite in capable now as you were then of using your brain at all. But you are in the less bad state when you sometimes worry frightfully & feel as if your brain were working round & round & are miserable. At other times you think there is nothing the matter. I understand

these states better now than I did then from
having been through them myself. I found
it difficult then to believe that all your
states of misery would go when you got
nourished again. But I took Savage's word
for it that you would & found it to be
true. When I got into the same state
myself I found it quite impossible then
to believe it at all, but I did have the
sense, which you must have now, to
go by the people & not by my own
feelings. No one will tell you to eat if
it's not necessary. Why should they? It
is most necessary & is the only way
of preventing you from getting really
bad. Now Billy do be sensible & don't
make things difficult for Leonard, but
realize that at this moment he is far
more sensible than you are & trust
him to know how to get things right. You
know, when you were bad before, you thought
just as you do now, that we were all mistaken
that there was nothing the matter & that it was
cruel to make you eat. But you know now we
were right & so you must take it in trust again

24th March

1914

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

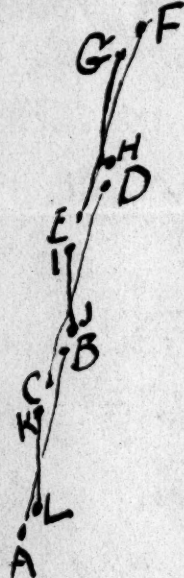
46, Gordon Square,

Bloomsbury.

Tuesday.

My Billy.

Do you want stuff for the petticoats? because you may remember that I once got a lot of canvas, rather nice to embroider, for the purpose which you can have if you like. Shall I send it? I'll get the silks too. As for the Eastern stitch it's very simple but I don't know if I can explain it on paper. but I'll try -



Bring your needle in from the back of the stuff at A put it in again at B. making a long stitch AB. bring it up at C. put it in at D. coming out at E, put it in at F coming out at G & so on as far as you want. Then, suppose you come to the end of your line at G you come back along the line, putting your needle in at H, coming out at I, putting it in at J, coming out at K, putting it in at L & so on to the end of the line. But it's very easy to understand.

I'm afraid it mayn't be very close to the line like that you do. When you've done the line like that you do the space is covered.

Adrian has come back from Paris but Duncan hasn't yet though he may appear at any moment. They seem to have had a very good time there.

Here is a sketch of the stitches without letters & show the sort of effect.



24th March

1914

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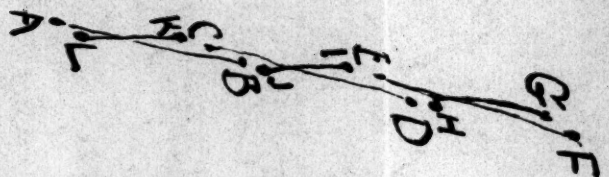
46, Gordon Square,

Bloomsbury.

Tuesday.

My Billy.

Do you want stuff for the patterns? because you may remember that I have got a lot of canvas, rather nice if you like. I shall send you some which you can use. I'll get the stuff in very soon. I'll explain it to you.



Here is a sketch of the stitches without letters to show the sort of effect.

I'm afraid it may be a little close if as you can see the space is correct.

When you come back from Paris but I don't know yet that he may appear at any moment. They seem to have had a very good time there.

Desmond has been staying here ever since I came
back from you & poor Molly is still at Karsgate
with the children. Desmond seems to take life
very lightly which is a good thing considering
the states he could get into what with measles
& the children's diseases & all. He certainly
is a most charming person which I can realize
now I am at ease with him which I
used not to be. - Ka was here yesterday
looking rather ill. I thought & full of mysterious
"worries" which I took to mean either
that people had been proposing to her or to
other people & confusing in her. But she
told me that she never told anyone else
anything about herself so I thought it better
not to press her for a revelation of her woes.
Perhaps you'll get them out of her some day.
Then I went to see Bryn & her baby who
was rather a nice baby. She says she is at
long to have a nurse but is going to do
everything herself at any rate for some time
which sounded to me too awful. For I shall
never be able to go away or hardly to
leave the house I should think. When I
think of what Julian used to be even with

a nurse I pity anyone without me. But
these young res-palan mothers evidently
mean to do the thing thoroughly.

Did you see the sequel to the lady ride
& the gentleman rackets? On Saturday
morning a lady on a dapple grey rode into
the row attended by two cavaliers. Her
right hand was conspicuously bare. As
she rode along, watched by a curious crowd
a man stepped forth holding out a small
packet. But the lady's attendant closed
round her & made her ride on - In a
few minutes however slipping back she came
& reined up in front of the gentleman rackets
who stepped forth again - At that moment
the cavaliers thundered up & the unknown
man put the packet back next his heart
& that was all! Perhaps you've seen
something more about it since. I hear
that Bruce Richmond managed to get I forget
how many. but an incredible number of
new subscribers to the supplement alone so I
suppose that will go on.

I hope Leonard didn't get any harm that
day what with the rain & hail & snow - I
still escaped pneumonia unlike his aunt
but when I got to Leves I very sensibly took
off my shoes, drew up my box to the waiting

room fire & sat with my feet in the fender
till they & my skirt were dry. Then as it
had cleared up I went to Mitcham after all &
improved considerably at potting. Probably
you will be able to get a dinner service fairly
cheap - but they aren't yet actually made
however plates are being made now so
they'll be ready by the time you want
them. I should think you'll be able to
get say 1 doz meat plates, 6 pudding
plate, 6 soup plates & some dishes for
about £2-10 or 10. I think they might be
be very nice - just plain white or with a
single line or two - I should wait till the
first experiments are over & get what you
want in the autumn.

I see you're getting very house proud with
your petticoats - Is there anything else you
want - Oh yes - the blue paper. which
I believe would really be nicest if I painted
it blue instead of getting a wall paper. Then
you'll get a certain variety in the colour.
I'll do that & send it to you. How I'd get
your hat one day soon -
Yours VB